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Second meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
24 March to 2 April 1981

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Sixteenth session/Seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Freetown, Sierra Leone,
6 to 11 April 1981

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

SL-M81-19

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 14 March 1991 at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Attendance

2. The bureaux of the various MULPOCs, who had been elected by their Subregional Committees participated in the meeting.

(a) Gisenyi MULPOC

Chairperson	Rwanda
Vice-Chairperson	Zaire
Rapporteur	Burundi

(b) Lusaka MULPOC

Chairperson	Lesotho
Vice-Chairperson	Mozambique
Rapporteur	Malawi

(c) Niamey MULPOC

Chairperson	The Gambia
Vice-Chairperson	Mali
Rapporteur	Ghana

(d) Yaounde MULPOC

Chairperson	The United Republic of Cameroon
Vice-Chairperson	The Congo
Rapporteur	The Central African Republic

(e) Tangiers MULPOC

Chairperson	Tunisia
Vice-Chairperson	The Sudan
Rapporteur	The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

3. The following attended as observers: the President of the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association (REWA) and the representatives of Algeria and Egypt who had participated in the inaugural meeting of the Tangiers MULPOC Subregional Committee; Mrs. Fatima Bahri, representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); Mrs. Ekouya Pouaty, representative of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO); Mrs. Jeanne Martin Cisse, Minister of Social Affairs, Guinea; Mrs. Shi, wife of Mr. Bi Jilong, the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Technical Co-operation for Development; representatives of the United Nations family at Addis Ababa; UNDP, FAO, ILO, WHO and UNICEF; representatives of the following bilateral co-operation organizations: SIDA and USAID; representatives of the Embassies of Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany; and a representative of the African-American Institute (AAI), a non-governmental organization.

II. OPENING SESSION

4. The Committee first heard a welcoming address by Ms. Abezash W/Michael, President of the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association (REWA). She recalled that women in developing countries represented the most oppressed segment of society because they were confined to the traditional sectors of the economy, while their contribution to the economic and social life of their countries went unrecognized. Since the revolution and accession to power of the Revolutionary Government of Socialist Ethiopia, measures had been taken to guarantee women their basic rights and freedom. In spite of those measures, however, much remained to be done within the context of the struggle of the working masses of Ethiopia to build a socialist society, since the problems of women were inseparable from those of society in general. Ethiopian women had organized themselves within the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association, which at the time of its founding had worked out a plan of action for 1981-1982 aimed at contributing to the social, economic and cultural development of the country in co-operation with the revolutionary Government and the organizations of the country's masses.

5. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, expressed pleasure that ARCC was meeting for the first time in 1981 at the Commission's headquarters and emphasized the originality of the network of structures aimed at integrating women in the development process at the national, subregional and regional levels. Africa was the only region endowed with such structures, and had been able to be so represented, by the ARCC Chairperson, at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in July 1980. The basic needs of women needed to be incorporated into MULPOC action programmes and, by extension, into those of the entire region. It was from that perspective that the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the second meeting of ARCC would be presented at the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers to be held at Freetown from 6 to 11 April 1981.

Africa's women as well as its men needed to devote their attention to the current disastrous economic situation which continued to dominate nearly all areas, particularly the areas of food (Africa had imported over five million United States dollars worth of foodstuffs in 1980). The Lagos Plan of Action, which called for the mobilization of all of Africa's resources, including those of women, would enable Africa to endow itself with a self-sustaining and self-reliant form of development. In addition, the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade provided women with the possibility of playing their role within the framework of the Strategy in the areas of food, industrialization and social development. The participants in the ARCC meeting should consequently devote a part of their discussion to a review of the text of the Lagos Plan of Action and the new Development Strategy in addition to considering the Programme of Action adopted at the Copenhagen Conference and endorsed by the General Assembly.

6. The Chairperson of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) Mrs. Delphine Tsanga, Minister of Social Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon, presented a summary of the activities undertaken since the establishment of the Regional Committee at Rabat in March 1979 and explained the concept of the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes to be implemented by the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW).

The Chairperson of ARCC then underscored matters relating to the budget and the recruitment of a secretary for the office of the ARCC Chairperson. With respect to relations with subregional committees, she referred to the establishment of Bureaux in the five ECA subregions and the building of stronger relations between the subregional committees and ARCC.

The Chairperson of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee mentioned the preparatory activities for the Copenhagen Conference at the second Regional Conference held at Lusaka the conclusions of which had been considered at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU held at Lagos in April 1980. She also mentioned the deliberations of the Copenhagen Conference.

7. In conclusion, the ARCC Chairperson expressed the wish that ARCC would in the future fulfil its terms of reference as efficiently as possible with the appropriate financial and human resources available.

8. The representative of the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) assured ARCC and ATRCW of the support and co-operation of PAWO, since they were all pursuing common goals. Concerted efforts on the part of all should lead to more tangible and significant results.

Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda

9. Following a proposal made by the representative of Rwanda and seconded by the representative of the Central African Republic, the meeting decided, by acclamation, to defer the election of the Bureau, originally agenda item 3, to the end of the meeting and requested the present Bureau to lead the deliberations of ARCC. Following that decision and other amendments made to the draft agenda, the final agenda was adopted by the Committee.

III. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE SUBREGIONAL COMMITTEES

A. Subregional Committee of the Gisenyi MULPOC (Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries)

10. The Chairperson of the Gisenyi MULPOC Subregional Committee underscored the difficulties encountered by the Bureau after its election. Those difficulties related to the following areas:

(a) The lack of information required to increase the awareness of national authorities on the one hand, with a view to understanding more fully the objectives pursued by the Subregional Committee, and of women on the other hand, with a view to their endorsement of the Subregional Committee action programme;

(b) Financial problems hampering the smooth functioning of the Bureau and implementation of the programme;

(c) The absence of an essential institutional legal framework to regulate the operation of the subregional machinery, a gap which could be filled by the formulation of an addendum to the ECA rules of procedure.

11. Referring to the report of the activities of the Gisenyi MULPOC (see document ECA/ATRCW/3), the Chairperson stressed the major action taken by the Subregional Committee to have the Committee integrated with the MULPOC Committee of Officials and to have the programmes for the integration of women in development included in the work programme of the MULPOC countries. To that end the MULPOC Council of Ministers had adopted a resolution concerning the participation of women in the activities of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), recommending to the permanent Executive Secretary of that community to involve women in the meetings of its technical commissions.

12. The Chairperson of the Subregional Committee of the Gisenyi MULPOC referred to contacts made by the Bureau with certain sources of financing, such as the Adenauer Foundation, USAID (through CEPGL) and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, assistance of which had been secured through ECA intervention.

13. For the priority programme of work adopted by the second meeting of the Subregional Committee of the Gisenyi MULPOC and endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC, the Chairperson asked participants to refer to document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/IV/4/Rev.1.

B. Subregional Committee of the Lusaka MULPOC (Eastern and Southern Africa)

14. The report of the Subregional Committee of the Lusaka MULPOC was introduced by the Committee Chairperson, who made reference to outstanding points. The report covered the following matters:

(a) Progress made in the implementation of the work programme;
(b) Second meeting of the Subregional Committee;
(c) Relations between the Subregional Committee and the policy organs of the Lusaka MULPOC.

15. With respect to the first point, the Chairperson said that the appointment of the Co-ordinator in January 1980 had stimulated interest in the work programme adopted by the Subregional Committee at its first meeting and made it possible to proceed to its implementation. Among its major activities were a course on nutrition for women members of SWAPO conducted with FAO and UNICEF assistance, a similar course for women from Zimbabwe, the organization of a study tour for women of the subregion to three West African countries to learn about handicrafts and more specifically the tie-dye technique, the organization of a similar tour to Kenya for women members of liberation movements and the organization of a study tour for women leaders from six countries of the subregion to Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. A subregional training programme on women and planning had been set up at the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute with the collaboration of ATRCW and the Population Council of the United States of America. Finally, fellowships had been given to women members of liberation movements. In research, annotated bibliographies had been prepared and detailed studies conducted on questions as varied as the role of women as food producers, the legal status of women in Mozambique and Ethiopia, excision in Ethiopia, women potters, etc.

16. The second item referred to by the Chairperson of the Subregional Committee was the second meeting of the Subregional Committee held at Maseru, Lesotho, from 11 to 14 November 1980. That meeting, which had been honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Mamohato Sesiso at its opening session, had adopted the work programme for 1981-1983 which had in turn been submitted to and approved by the meeting of the MULPOC Council of Ministers of the subregion, which also met at Maseru from 12 to 22 January 1981. The work programme, based on the guidelines and the strategies of the Lagos Plan of Action and on an analysis of the specific needs of the subregion, stressed first of all the role and problems of women and the assistance which should be given to them in the production of foodstuffs.

17. The work programme also included training activities in the areas of health, nutrition and family life, project formulation and implementation and studies, scholarships for training of instructors and income generating projects. In the context of the presentation of the work programme, the speaker stressed those elements of the Programme of Action emanating from the Copenhagen Conference to which the subregional committee had paid special attention, particularly the series of recommendations and resolutions dealing with the women of South Africa and Namibia, the recommendations on the pursuit of the programmes in favour of the child launched during the International Year of the Child, those on the International Year of the Disabled, and those aiming at the inclusion of the women component in all development programmes.

18. Finally, while dealing with the issue of relations between the Subregional Committee and the MULPOC policy organs, the Chairperson pointed out that the MULPOC Council of Ministers of the subregion actively supported programmes for women of the subregion, although Governments should place greater financial and human resources at the service of those programmes.

C. Niamey MULPOC (West Africa)

19. The report of the Chairperson of the Bureau of the West African Subregional Committee which had just been elected at the meeting of the Committee held in Banjul in January 1981 consisted of three parts: the historical background to the Committee and its activities; a report on the second meeting of the subregional bureau held in Banjul; and the presentation of the 1981-1983 work programme.

20. With regard to what the Subregional Committee had done since its inception, the Chairperson stated that the Committee operated in a sporadic manner until the appointment of the Co-ordinator in December 1979. She also stressed the increase in the duties of the Co-ordinator who had to travel constantly to ensure liaison among the States, the MULPOC and the Bureau of the Committee. Finally after deploring the infrequency of the meetings of the Committee, she hoped that in its deliberations ANCC would concentrate on the following:

(a) Elaboration of working methods of the subregional bureaux;

(b) Review of the relations between ECA and the subregional committees;

(c) Increase in financial and human resources available to the women's programme of the MULPOC;

(d) Increase in the frequency of the meetings of the Subregional Committee;

(e) Provision of specific resources to the bureau of the Subregional Committee to enable it to operate properly (as secretariat) and to attend meetings of the subregional and other committees.

21. In her report on activities, the Chairperson emphasized the co-operation of the United Nations agencies in the subregion which had allowed a number of activities to be carried out. Training seminars had been organized on national machineries on the formulation and implementation of projects dealing with population questions. Study tours within the subregion as well as pilot projects on income-generating activities, appropriate technology and small agro-industries had been launched. Finally, research had been carried out on specific problems and situations in a number of countries of the subregion.

22. The second meeting of the subregional committee which had been held in Banjul from 27 to 29 January 1981 had elected the new bureau and adopted a number of resolutions which had been submitted to and approved by the Council of Ministers of the subregion, at its meeting in Freetown in February 1981. Those resolutions dealt with speeding up the establishment of national machineries in the countries of the subregion which did not yet have any, the secondment of an expert in food technology to the MULPOC and the provision of scholarships in the fields of food technology, food processing and management of co-operatives to the subregion.

23. The 1981-1983 programme of activities of the subregion consisted first of all consolidating the programmes launched during the preceding years. It also comprised a number of new activities centred on food production and processing and prevention of food losses; the development of means of communications for women; the management of commercial activities in which women participated. The Chairperson called for a second staff member to be appointed to the women's programme of the MULPOC. She also hoped that the Governments of the subregion would designate, within their national bodies, a highly qualified woman officer who would deal with programmes for women at the national level and who would attend the subregional meetings.

D. Yaounde MULPOC (Central Africa)

24. The report presented by the Vice-Chairperson of the Yaounde MULPOC Subregional Committee (the Congo) covered the following:

(a) Report on the activities of the Subregional Committee bureau;

(b) Report on the activities of ATRCW in the subregion;

(c) Report on the activities of the Co-ordinator of the women's programme of the Yaounde MULPOC;

(d) Report on the activities of various programmes in the subregion.

25. With regard to the activities of the Subregional Committee Bureau, she noted the participation of the bureau in the meetings of the Committee of officials and the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC during 1978 and 1979, the Rabat Conference in 1979 and finally the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in July 1980.

26. The activities of ATRCW in the subregion, she noted, had covered the programme of national machineries (information seminars and study tours of the Task Force), a training course on nutrition, carried out in collaboration with the Pan African Institute for Development (PAID) and the preparation of the seminar on the management and administration of co-operatives organized in November 1980. She also mentioned the research carried out in 1979 on the integration of women in development.

27. The activities of the Co-ordinator had focussed mainly on:

- the establishment of national machineries;
- the organization of exchanges and experience among national machineries;
- the training of women leaders in management of co-operatives (the Libreville Seminar held from 4 to 28 November 1980);
- the organization of a study tour in the United Republic of Cameroon for women leaders from the subregion.

28. Finally, concerning the activities under various programmes carried out in the subregion, mention should be made of the activities relating to national machineries undertaken both in Sao Tome and Principe and in the Congo, the contacts initiated with UNICEF (Nairobi) and the holding of the second meeting of the Subregional Committee of the Yaounde MULPOC.

29. She then emphasized that during the financial year 1978-1980 the project for the integration of women in development had met with two main types of problems: financial problems, and organizational problems. Concerning financial problems, it was expected that in 1981 the budget would amount to $US127,101 although in the light of priorities $US200,000 had been requested. The organizational programmes related particularly to the organization of seminars and the difficulties in the dissemination of information which had arisen in granting fellowships.

30. In conclusion she hoped that offers of fellowships would be communicated early enough to States and that appropriate measures would be taken to avoid overlapping in the activities of the Co-ordinator of the women's programme of the MULPOC and those of ATRCW.

E. Tangiers MULPOC (North Africa)

31. The Subregional Committee of the Tangiers MULPOC took part for the first time in ARCC since the Committee had held its inaugural meeting at Addis Ababa from 10 to 12 March 1981, which had permitted it to elect its bureau.

32. The Chairperson of the Subregional Committee bureau (Tunisia) gave a report on the proceedings of that inaugural meeting. She stressed the imperative need for the subregion to have the Co-ordinator of the women's programme of the Tangiers MULPOC appointed as soon as possible. Women in the subregion wanted to join in the efforts to promote peace, well being and health for women in the subregion. She also stressed the need to harmonize priorities in the projects with projects undertaken by national women's organizations and Governments although such priorities would of course vary from country to country.

33. Finally, she referred to the priority programme for the 1982-1983 period which is reproduced as an addendum to the present report. The programme centred on:

- Strengthening of national machineries;
- Improving the skills of women leaders in the project preparation and planning;
- Improving the health of women;
- Training in the management of small enterprises;
- Study of the legal status of women in the subregion.

Summary of Discussions

34. The statements on the programmes of the subregional committees were followed by discussions during which the following major issues were brought out:

- Financial problems;
- Structural organization and articulation of the various national, subregional and regional machineries;
- Communications problems.

(a) Financial Problems

35. The discussions on financial problems centred on the financing of priority programmes selected by the MULPOCs.

- In that connexion, the participants, while appreciating the international assistance enjoyed by ATRCW and the MULPOCs, called for States to allocate substantial amounts to the national programmes for the integration of women in development and for the participation of women in subregional and regional meetings.

- Some delegations requested that resources should be allocated from the budget for the operation of the subregional committee bureaux.

- Two delegations requested that a deputy to the co-ordinators of the Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs should be recruited subject to the availability of funds.

- A consensus was reached at the meeting to request OAU to support the programmes by granting them the necessary funds for the integration of women in development at the regional and subregional level. Following a proposal made by the Gisenyi, Niamey and Yaounde MULPOC Subregional Committees, an consensus emerged to request the forthcoming Conference of Ministers of ECA that a certain percentage of the pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development should be earmarked for programmes relating to the integration of women in development in the region.

(b) Structural Organization and Articulation of the Various National, Subregional Machineries

36. Most participants recalled the need to draft rules of procedure to ensure better articulation of the national, subregional and regional machineries

and better internal modus operandi of the subregional machineries.

37. Participants expressed the hope that national machineries for the integration of women in development should consist of technically competent personnel, so as to ensure the success of the subregional committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Finally, some participants called for the harmonization of national and subregional programmes in order to avoid overlapping and unnecessary expenses.

(c) Communications Problems

38. Several delegations deplored the lack of communication, exchange and dissemination of information among the various structures for the integration of women in development, i.e. among the subregional committees, ARCC and ATRCW. Communications should also be disseminated within the Subregional Committee bureaux and the ARCC Bureau.

39. Finally, the difficulties of communication existing between the co-ordinators of the MULPOCs and the various structures for the integration of women in development should be overcome.

40. The Secretariat recognized the merits of the comments made by participants and expressed the hope that ARCC would make strong recommendations to the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers so that regular budget would be provided for the women's programme of the ECA and the MULPOCs and that States would allocate a certain percentage of their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to these programmes.

41. With regard to the concern expressed by some participants about the need for rules of procedure for the subregional committees, the ARCC Chairperson warned against rules of procedure which might be inconsistent with texts governing ECA.

IV. PROGRESS REPORT OF ATRCW: 1979-1980

42. The ATRCW report was presented by the Chief Co-ordinator of ATRCW who stressed how much headway had been made since 1974 in the establishment of co-ordinating machineries at the regional, subregional and national levels. She also welcomed the presence of the representatives of the Pan African Women's Organization and the Organization of African Unity at the meeting.

43. Without detailing the achievements of the ATRCW during the last two years, which were summed up in the table annexed to document ARCC/ATRCW/02/04, she emphasized the fundamental problems which challenged the Centre at the present time to which thought should be given. Those problems were:

(a) Rural women, their productivity and their integration into the monetarized sector.

(b) The decentralization of the activities, now being solved with the appointment of co-ordinators and the provision of the necessary funds for them.

(c) The co-ordination of the programmes within the MULPOCs, among the MULPOCs, and within the United Nations family. With regard to the last issue, mention should be made of the existence of the United Nations Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, established in 1976 which worked satisfactorily. Solutions were beginning to be found to problems in that area too.

(d) The future of ATRCW.

44. With regard to the future of ATRCW, since the subregional committees and the MULPOCs could now take care of activities at the subregional and regional levels, ATRCW should henceforth concentrate on backstopping those structures, research and thoughts on fundamental problems such as the role and future of rural African women, their training, employment and organization; the needs of refugee women and training in planning.

V. REPORT ON THE COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

45. The secretariat presented a report on the Copenhagen Conference together with an assessment of the implications of the outcome of the Conference for the African region (document E/CN.14/707 - E/CN.14/TPCW/11/13). In that context, the recommendations of the Programme of Action and resolutions of the Conference on the women of South Africa and Namibia, refugee women and rural women should be stressed. Mention should also be made of the recommendations of the Programme of Action and the resolutions on research and training which provided tools which the region could use to promote the interests of women in those areas. The Programme of Action had been endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980 which requested member States to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

VI. PRIORITY WORK PROGRAMME AND ORDER OF PRIORITY 1981, 1982 1983

46. The secretariat introduced document ARCC/ATRCW/82/05 containing:

(a) The 1980-1983 work programme of ECA which comprised a general and a regional programme. Both the general and the regional programmes focussed on studies to be undertaken in the light of the decentralization of ATRCW activities which entrusted the other activities to the MULPOCs. Beside the studies, the regional programme also included the collection and dissemination of data and the provision of fellowships.

(b) The work programme and order of priorities of ATRCW and the Subregional Committees had been mentioned and followed by discussions under agenda item 3. It was not necessary to revert to it. However, the secretariat

explained that, since the final priority programme approved by the Councils of Ministers of the Gisenyi and Yaounde MULPOCs had reached ECA very late, the items relating to these two subregions would be amended in due course.

Summary of Discussions

47. After the presentation of the ATRCW work programme and the order of priorities for 1981, 1982, 1983, discussions centred on that programme, the progress report for 1979-1980 (paragraphs 39-43) and on the report on the World Conference of Copenhagen and its implications for the African region (para. 44).

48. Concerning the ATRCW progress report for 1979-1980, certain omissions were pointed out so that they could be corrected.

49. Concerning the work programme, the subregional committees of the Niamey and Gisenyi MULPOCs requested that the work programmes of their subregions should be updated in accordance with the programmes of work adopted by the Niamey MULPOC Council of Ministers and by Gisenyi MULPOC Council of Ministers and the Zaire Commissioner of State at their fourth meeting.

50. Concerning the ATRCW work programme several participants regretted that the document ARCC/ATRCW/02/05 presented the respective programmes of ATRCW and the subregional committees as separate entities but without delineating them clearly. The Chairperson of the Subregional Committee of the Yaounde MULPOC noted that no country in her subregion was among those countries which would benefit from future activities of ATRCW and she requested that the situation should be reviewed.

51. It was requested that the work programmes of ATRCW and the subregional committees should be harmonized in order to avoid duplication. ATRCW was in particular urged to ensure that the programmed activities would be in line with the needs and priorities of member States.

52. In replying the secretariat of ECA and the Chairperson of ARCC explained that there had been very little time between the submission of the reports of the subregional committees and the drafting of the ATRCW documents for the various regional conferences and the meetings of donors. That had compelled ATRCW to draft some working papers in advance on the Lusaka and Copenhagen resolutions. The secretariat also pointed out that there had been a change in the presentation of the ECA work programmes for 1982-1983, which now had to be in an integrated form.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

53. Under other matters the Chairperson first welcomed the representative of Algeria as observer at the ARCC meeting since it had been decided that the countries which had participated in the inaugural meeting of the subregion of North Africa but which were not members of the newly elected subregional bureau would participate in the ARCC meeting as observers. The representative of Algeria (National Union of Algerian Women) expressed the firm will of his country to participate fully in all programmes for the integration of women in development.

54. Another question before the Co-ordinating Committee was the request made to ATRCW to carry out in-depth studies on the issue of divorce and the future of the family which was a matter of concern.

55. The meeting also heard the reports of intergovernmental organizations which had requested to address the meeting. They were FAO, ILO, UNDP and OAU.

56. The representative of FAO recalled her organization's concern about rural development and agrarian reform and its desire to respond to the appeal of Governments for a search for measures to ensure self-sufficiency in food for all. In that connexion, she stressed that the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of July 1979 had, for the sake of efficiency and in recognition of the contribution of rural women to the development of their respective countries, clearly stressed the need to facilitate their access to land, water, and other natural resources as well as the other factors of production and services. Finally, she stated that as from 1981 FAO would celebrate 16 October of each year, the anniversary of its establishment, as World Food Day in order to keep alert to the vital problem of hunger in the world and the solutions that should be found to it.

57. The ILO representative stressed the policies and programmes which, since its establishment in 1919, ILO had adopted for problems of women workers. In the African region, these policies and programmes focussed around the Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa (JASPA) and, more specifically, around the ECA/ILO/SIDA Handicraft and Small-Scale Industry Unit of ATRCW. Those projects worked in close collaboration with ATRCW in the fields of income-generating activities, employment and self-employment of rural women and particularly training and upgrading women's skills.

58. Finally, the representative of UNDP recalled that her organization had, in 1979, put one million United States dollars at the disposal of the MULPOCs for the subregional and national programmes on the integration of women in development. It was satisfying to observe the results of that assistance from the reports of the various subregional committees and with regard to the ARCC meeting itself, UNDP proposed to evaluate those programmes in May 1981 for the Yaounde, Gisenyi and Lusaka MULPOCs and in June-July for the Niamey MULPOC. Besides, the five-year programming cycle followed by UNDP should be noted. The next cycle would run from 1982 to 1986. In conclusion, she informed the Co-ordinating Committee that a series of the United Nations meetings would start at the end of April 1981.

59. For her part, the representative of the Organization of African Unity informed the Co-ordinating Committee that she had taken good note of the comments and suggestions made during the discussions and that she would communicate them to the OAU secretariat. The latter had demonstrated its interest in the problem of the integration of women in development by recruiting a female staff member to be responsible for the problems of women and children and by putting that matter on the agenda of the next OAU Assembly Meeting. The desire expressed by participants to receive financial assistance from OAU for the regional and subregional women's programmes would be communicated to the OAU Advisory Committee which would surely make every effort to find ways and means to meet the requests.

60. After the foregoing statements, the Chairperson thanked the representatives of international organizations and more particularly UNDP for the assistance they extended to national, subregional and regional programmes for the integration of women in development. She also expressed the wish that part of the funds formerly granted by OAU to liberation movements should be transferred to programmes for women in the newly liberated countries.

61. The last matter raised was the holding of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development. That Conference should normally have taken place in 1982. ARCC should advise ATRCW on the dates and venue of the Conference and also on how to draw up its agenda. The Committee requested ATRCW to pursue its thoughts and research on those issues and to submit concrete proposals for consideration and decision.

VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

62. Upon the proposal of the representative of Guinea supported by the representatives of the Congo and the Central African Republic, Ms. Delphine Tsanga, ARCC Chairperson, was reelected by acclamation.

63. Ms. Delphine Tsanga thanked the participants for the trust they placed in her and through her, in her country, she pointed out that being a member of her Government, she was not at liberty to undertake immediately to assume the duties entrusted to her without consulting the Cameroonian Government.

64. After consultations among the Chairpersons of the subregional committees the following bureau was elected:

Chairperson	:	United Republic of Cameroon
First Vice Chairperson	:	The Gambia
Second Vice Chairperson	:	Rwanda
First Rapporteur	:	Tunisia
Second Rapporteur	:	Lesotho

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RESOLUTION

65. Participants adopted the report of the meeting presented by the Rapporteur together with ten resolutions. The Chairperson of ARCC would submit the report and recommendations to the ECA Conference of Ministers which was to be held at Freetown from 6 to 11 April 1981.

X. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

66. At the closing meeting, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), congratulated participants on the results achieved by the Co-ordinating Committee, whose deliberations he had followed right from the beginning. He fully appreciated also the work of the inaugural meeting of the Tangiers MULPOC Subregional Committee and invited the newly elected Chairperson of that Committee to attend the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers in Freetown.

67. The Executive Secretary also wished to give ARCC the benefit of his views on three important points: the harmonization of the work of ECA/ATRCW and the subregional committees, the financing of programmes for the integration of women in development at the regional and subregional levels and the future status of ATRCW and projects financed from the regular budget of ECA.

68. With regard to the first point, he reaffirmed that ATRCW was meant to serve the region and as such could not have a programme which did not meet the hopes and needs of the women of the region. Hence, ATRCW's programme had to be harmonized with those of the subregions, subject to the necessary transitional arrangements.

69. On the second point he said that he too was very concerned by the fact that women's programmes depended on sources of financing from outside the region. He hoped that efforts would be made to find the required resources within the region and in that regard he welcomed the resolution requesting member States to earmark a percentage of their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development for women's programmes because the secretariat was not always free to use the Funds' resources as it might wish. Moreover, he also urged participants who were representing their countries at the meeting to encourage the latter to support the resolution. Finally he hoped that UNDP would be good enough to finance an assistant for each of the co-ordinators at the Niamey and Lusaka MULPOCs where the problems were well known.

70. On the last point, he recalled that ECA was part of a global system - the United Nations - which made certain administrative and financial constraints and delays inevitable. The future status of ATRCW was still under study, but the ECA secretariat would do all it could to provide ATRCW with regular posts.

71. In concluding he said that he was happy to host the meetings of ARCC at ECA headquarters whenever ARCC wished it, but he hoped that future meetings of the Committee would as far as possible be held in other countries of the region so as to promote the exchange of contacts and experience.

72. In her closing statement, the Chairperson of ARCC welcomed the felicitous way in which the second meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee had been conducted and the results it had achieved, which attested to the maturity and awareness acquired by African women. The second meeting had in fact been one for consolidating and taking stock of the structures set up at the first meeting of the Committee two years before in Rabat and the outcome was encouraging notwithstanding the difficulties which had arisen, particularly on the

financial level. For the future, she hoped that the regional programme would be better harmonized and co-ordinated with the subregional programmes adopted and executed by the various MULPOCs.

73. Finally she thanked the governmental and intergovernmental organizations and in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the invaluable assistance they extended to programmes for the integration of women in development at both the regional and the subregional levels and hoped that resources would be found for those programmes both through OAU and through African Governments so as to ensure a happier future for the men and women of the continent.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Mobilization of Financial and Human Resources for the Implementation of the Programme for the Integration of Women in Development

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Considering, the increasingly marked interest of member States of the region in the women's programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Subregional Committees,

Taking into account the importance of the work programmes and the Arusha programme and strategies, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Programme of Action,

Considering that the work programmes of the Subregional Committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee reflect the basic priorities expressed by member States,

Recognizing that this broad regional programme requires a mobilization of funds for its implementation,

Thanking the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the governmental and non-governmental organizations and other donors for the financial support they give to the women's programmes of the Commission and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

1. Requests these agencies to increase their assistance to these programmes and to the effective functioning of the subregional bureaux and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

2. Requests the Conference of Ministers to allocate, a percentage of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to the programme for the integration of women at the Commission and Multinational Programming and Operational Center levels;

3. Urges the Organization of African Unity to collaborate actively with programmes for the integration of women in development at the subregional and regional levels by granting them the funds necessary for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Rules of procedure and terms of reference of the structures for the integration of women in the development process

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Africa rules of procedure in their current state predate the establishment of structures for the integration of women in the development process,

Considering the specific realities that underlie the operation of each Subregional Committee,

1. Calls upon the Commission to place the services of its legal adviser at the disposal of the MULPOCs in order to consider ways of adapting the Commission rules of procedures to the internal realities of each Multinational Programming and Operational Centre;

2. Further calls upon the Commission to define and codify the institutional framework governing the relations between the Subregional Committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee between the Subregional Committee and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and between the Subregional Committees and the African Training and Research Centre for Women.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Dissemination of information among the various structures for the integration of women in the development process

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Noting with concern the absence or inadequacy of information dissemination between the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the Subregional Committees and among the various Subregional Committees,

Considering the importance of the production, distribution, archiving and classification of documents,

Affirming the importance of the maintenance and classification of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee archives and those of the various Subregional Committees for the monitoring and continuity of the various activities undertaken,

Conscious of the lack of qualified documentalists and archivists in Africa,

1. Strongly encourages the Governments of member countries and the Economic Commission for Africa to grant training scholarships for these expert documentalists and archivists to meet the needs of both the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and the other bodies of the region;

2. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and the Governments to foster in all ways the dissemination of information between the various machineries for the integration of women in development.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Participation of women in the formulation of national development plans

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Considering the great contribution of women to the attainment of the objectives of development plans,

Considering the commendable efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for the effective integration of women in the development process,

Bearing in mind the resolutions adopted by the Lusaka and Copenhagen Conference,

Recalling the decision of the Conference of Ministers at its fifth meeting in March 1979 to give high priority to the integration of women in the development process,

Considering that the problem of the integration of women is the problem of not only the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa but first and foremost that of the Governments of the States of the African region,

1. Calls upon Governments of African States to involve women in the formulation, discussion and implementation of national development plans,

2. Requests the Governments of member States to take into account, in so far as possible, the concerns of women in national development plans.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Budgetary resources of women's programmes

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Recalling the resolution of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers held at Rabat in 1979 which recommended that the African Training and Research Centre for Women should become the Division for the Integration of Women in Development,

Further recalling resolution 375(XV) of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers held at Addis Ababa in 1980 which, having examined the report of the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development, held at Lusaka in 1979, endorsed all its resolutions, including those on the appointment of women to posts in the professional and higher categories within the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Further recalling resolution 21 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Copenhagen in 1980, which urged the provision from the regular budget of the United Nations of the funds for personnel and programmes to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and resolution 24 of the same Conference on the appointment and promotion of women to middle and high level professional posts in the United Nations Secretariat,

Noting the commendable efforts on the part of the African Training and Research Centre for Women,

Concerned that no measures have been taken to effect divisional status for the African Training and Research Centre for Women or to finance the Centre's posts from the regular budget,

Conscious also of the insufficient funding from the regular United Nations budget for the women's programme,

Noting with concern the reluctance of donor agencies to continue to fund personnel for the women's programme,

Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take appropriate steps to provide permanent posts for the professional staff of the African Training and Research Centre for Women and to elevate the Centre to divisional status.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Provision of additional manpower to the Lusaka and Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for co-ordination work

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Aware of the number of countries comprising the Lusaka and Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, which are 18 and 16 respectively,

Noting that the task of the Co-ordinator is to organize, co-ordinate and supervise the programmes for the integration of women in development within the subregion,

Reaffirming the commitment to make maximum use of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres at the subregional level,

Recommends that the subregional machineries of the Lusaka and Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centres should be strengthened by the appointment of an assistant to the Co-ordinator at each Centre.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

National and subregional machineries

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Recalling the provisions of the African Regional Plan and the World Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development which proposes the creation of national subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development,

Further recalling the resolutions of the First Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, on the establishment of Subregional Committees and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee,

Bearing in mind resolution 383(XIV) of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers requesting that Governments and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa should furnish the Bureaux of the Subregional Committees with the means to enable them to play an active role in the region,

Having noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Subregional Committees and their secretariats and the implementation of the first phase of their work programme,

Aware that the establishment of the Subregional Committees has been largely due to the financial contributions of the United Nations Development Programme to the different Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Having considered the reports and recommendations of the second meeting of the Gisenyi, Lusaka, Niamey and Yaounde Subregional Committees on the Integration of Women in Development adopted by the Councils of Ministers of the respective Centres,

Recognizing that the programmes of work defined by the Subregional Committees reflect the programme and strategies for 1982-1985 adopted by the Second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development held at Lusaka in 1979 and the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa,

1. Endorses the action proposals made by the Subregional Committees on the Integration of Women in Development;

2. Acknowledges its indebtedness to the United Nations Development Programme and urges it to continue its assistance to the Subregional Committees;

3. Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to increase its technical and financial assistance to the women's programmes of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

4. Urges Governments at the pledging conference to be held at Freetown in April 1981 to earmark a percentage of their pledges for the women's programmes at the subregional and regional level;

5. Appeals to United Nations agencies and bilateral and non-governmental donor agencies in a co-ordinated manner to extend their assistance to the national and subregional machineries for the integration of women in development and to furnish them with the financial and technical means necessary for the implementation of their work programmes as defined by the Subregional Committees.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 3520 (XXX) proclaiming the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Bearing in mind the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and by the Assembly of Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting that the International Strategy for the Third Development Decade takes account of the role women play in the development of their countries,

Recalling further the contribution of the African region to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women held in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980,

1. Salutes the adoption by the General Assembly in resolution 35/136 of December 1980, of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

2. Requests Governments to take appropriate measures to implement this programme and to co-ordinate and harmonize their activities at the national, subregional and regional levels;

3. Reaffirms the necessity of providing adequate financial and human resources to the machineries for the integration of women in development to implement this programme;

4. Affirms that the goals of the Programme of Action cannot be attained without the participation of women at decision-making levels in their countries;

5. Urges the Commission to do all within its power to carry out the Programme of Action in the African region.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Rural Women

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Recalling the conclusions of the second Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development held at Lusaka, 1979 in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 33/187,

Noting that the review of progress accomplished and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Africa and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development shows that much remains to be done to improve the living conditions of rural women,

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform held in Rome from 12 to 20 July 1979,

Aware of the role that women can play to alleviate the food crisis in Africa,

Recognizing that despite their vital role in agriculture, rural women use primitive methods for agricultural production, lack training and have little access to credit,

Aware that the deterioriation of their living conditions in certain areas as a result of scourges such as drought has reduced them to subsistence level,

Aware also that the vast majority of rural women are employed in agriculture and that projections indicate an increase in the rural female labour force which can not be absorbed by the agricultural sector, thus leading to grave unemployment among rural women,

1. Urges Governments to give high priority in their national plans to rural development and to recognize the place of women producers in development;

2. Appeals to the Commission, United Nations agencies and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies to assist Governments to implement projects aimed at;

(a) Developing agricultural extension services for women farmers and facilitating their access to credit, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs, as well as ownership and use of land;

(b) Facilitating the establishment of income-generating agro-industries in rural areas;

(c) Promoting the introduction of new technologies or improving existing technologies for agricultural production;

(d) Increasing availability of water supplies and energy for domestic uses;

3. Recommends that national Governments, international organizations and the Commission should develop special programmes with a view to channelling women to other areas of employment. These programmes should concentrate on training and skill development, small-scale industries and handicrafts based on processing and using local raw materials, and determining consumer needs so as to absorb the growing female labour force and create employment opportunities in the formal and non-formal sectors.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Creation of National Machineries

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

Recalling resolution 269 (III) of 28 February 1975 adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission and the recommendations adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year,

Recalling also resolution 1 adopted by the Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development held at Nouakchott from 27 September to 2 October 1979, and resolution 1 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers held at Rabat from 20 to 23 March 1979,

Recalling further resolution 39, adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980,

Considering that the various meetings of the Subregional Committees have repeatedly recommended to the States members of their subregions the creation of such national machineries,

Conscious of the fact that the efficiency of the subregional and regional mechanisms depends on the existence at the national level of an efficient organizational structure,

Appeals to Governments which have not yet done so to create national machineries in line with the socio-economic reality of their countries or to strengthen existing ones.

Motion of support for Ms. Delphine Tsanga, Minister of Social Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon and Chairperson of Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee

We, the members of ARCC present at the second meeting held from 12 to 14 March 1981, having followed with interest and great satisfaction the reports on the activities carried out within the Subregional Committees and at the level of ARCC for the integration of women in development and having realized that Mrs. Delphine Tsanga, in performing her functions at the head of the ARCC Bureau, has been dynamic, dedicated and available at all times, extend to her our heartfelt and warmest congratulations.

For the sake of continuity in our activities and to enable young women leaders to profit from her experience in promoting the status of African women,

We reaffirm our support for her and appeal to H.E. El Hadj Hamadou Ahidjo, President of the United Republic of Cameroon and to his Government to continue to make the services of Ms. Delphine Tsanga, Minister of Social Affairs, available to the African region for a second term of office as Chairperson of ARCC.

Done at Addis Ababa
14 March 1981

VOTE OF THANKS

The second meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee, held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 March 1981,

1. Addresses its warm and sincere thanks to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia, to its people and to the Revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association for the cordial welcome which they extended to all participants;

2. Also thanks the Commission and the African Training and Research Centre for Women for their co-operation and the perfect organization of the present meeting.